

TO: Members, Clark Fork Basin Water Management Task Force

FROM: Matthew McKinney, Executive Director  
Gerald Mueller, Project Coordinator  
Mark Lambert, Project Associate

SUBJECT: Summary of August 26, 2002 Meeting and Next Steps

DATE: August 29, 2002

### **Participants**

All members of the Task Force and staff were present, except the following – Holly Franz, Bill Kleinhans, Mike Miller, and Tina Bernd-Cohen.

### **Review of Budget**

Matt McKinney informed the Task Force that the special legislative session in early August left all the funds originally allotted to the Task Force intact. By the end of June 2003, the money needs to be obligated or the Task Force will lose it. The money should be committed to specific projects before the January 2003 legislative session.

Mike McLane informed the Task Force of DNRC's interest in moving the Task Force funds in to its general budget and providing research and technical services to the Task Force using DNRC staff. The Task Force will respond with a memorandum to DNRC expressing the Task Force's interest in dictating the specifics of the budget.

### **Review of Ground Rules**

The Task Force discussed future involvement from municipality representatives. Missoula will be unable to participate due to time constraints, and it is anticipated that other municipalities will have the same constraints. Gerald Mueller will contact possible representatives from Polson. Municipalities will be specifically targeted by Task Force public outreach efforts.

Concerning section 3.1(A)d of the Suggested Ground Rules, Phil Tourangeau, representing the Confederated Salish-Kootenai Tribes, explained that he is participating on this Task Force on behalf of the Tribal Council. The Tribal Council determines the degree of participation, what information to share (and when), and when to make what decisions. The Task Force acknowledged Phil's explanation.

The Task Force agreed that the Montana Consensus Council would act as the Clark Fork River Basin Task Force media contact or official spokesperson.

The Task Force agreed upon the Suggested Ground Rules with the above provisions.

### **Discussion of Issue Briefs**

Matt McKinney suggested the development of a detailed issue brief after every Task Force meeting that would focus on what has been learned and what remains to be learned regarding the primary meeting topic. These issue briefs would eventually contribute to an October Report and Annual Report to be submitted to the State Legislature and the management plan.

The Task Force agreed that Issue Briefs would be helpful in the ongoing development of their work as a public statement of progress and as a useful reference.

### **Presentations**

The Task Force heard four presentations, as described below:

1. Roy Kaiser with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) discussed Basin snow pack and its influence as the engine for streams covering the following topics:
  - A. Snow pack occurrence
  - B. Runoff and timing
  - C. Shaping the hydrograph
  - D. Major un-answered questions on snow pack.
2. Ron Shields with the USGS discussed surface water in western Montana covering the following topics:
  - A. How and who monitors and keeps records of surface water
  - B. The typical hydrograph - when and how surface water occurs
  - C. Water generated basin wide and by sub-basin
    1. Sub-basin or major watershed contributions
    2. Variations in discharge, percentage contributions and timing
    3. Major sub basin storage – how much, acre-feet & % of stream annual flow
    4. How storage affects the hydrograph
    5. How man modifies the hydrograph through diversions, storage and return flows
  - D. Introduction to the concepts of hydrograph averages and exceedances
  - E. Frequencies of flood and drought
  - F. Major un-answered questions on Clark Fork hydrology

3. John LaFave and Tom Patton of Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology (MBMG) discussed ground water in western Montana covering the following topics::
- A. Introduction to MBMG, GWIC and Montana Characterization Program
  - B. Introduction to the general features of ground water in MT's Columbia Basin
    - 1. Alluvial systems
    - 2. Bedrock systems
    - 3. When and how recharge occurs
    - 4. Discharge
    - 5. Features of Storage
  - C. Influences of geologic and hydrologic features on basin
  - D. Discharge areas
  - E. Recharge areas
    - F. General characteristics of ground water in sub basins
      - 1. Flathead (does this need to be subdivided more?),
      - 2. Bitterroot
      - 3. Middle Clark Fork (Mouth of Flathead to Missoula)
      - 4. Blackfoot
      - 5. Upper Clark Fork (Milltown dam to headwaters)
      - 6. Lower Clark Fork.
    - G. Unique features of ground water in sub basins.
    - H. Major unanswered questions
4. Bill Uthman of MBMG discussed ground water - surface water interactions.

### **Concluding Discussion: What do we need to know?**

Task Force members made the following observations regarding information they would like to have to proceed with the Water Management Plan:

- 👍 Total consumptive use in gaining areas
- 👍 Estimation of amount of groundwater we have – comparable in depth and size to Flathead Lake
- 👍 Sensitivity analysis about how much we can divert before we see impacts on streams

### **Next Steps**

The next three meetings will focus on the following topics:

September 30 – Water Rights -- Who has what type of right to use water in the basin?

October 28 – Regulatory Controls and their implication to water availability and the security of water rights.

November 25 -- How much is used? By whom? For what?

Each one of these meetings will, in general, be organized around the following questions: What do we know? What don't we know? What do we want to know? How should we go about learning what we want to know?

Prior to the next meeting, the staff will:

- 👉 Develop an agenda on water rights and contact appropriate people for information and presentations.
- 👉 Prepare and distribute materials to members of the Task Force prior to the next meeting.

The following documents are enclosed with this memorandum:

1. Revised Suggested Ground Rules and Work Plan
2. Revised Issue Brief #1

Prior to the September 30, 2002 meeting, Task Force members will receive an initial draft of Issue Brief #2 covering the presentations on the physical availability of surface and groundwater.